



Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine students at Rag Day last year

# NUS Rag and Flag 2011

By Nathanael Foong

Every year on a day in early August, students from all faculties at the National University of Singapore (NUS), dressed in the same t-shirts, spill onto the streets of Singapore. The students dot every corner of the city, each holding a white donation tin. It is indeed a sight to behold. This event is the NUS Students' Union (NUSSU) Flag Day, where the entire NUS student body goes forth in a combined effort to raise funds for charity, and has become an important and memorable part of each student's freshman year in NUS.

All donations collected during Flag Day, held on 3 August this year, will be fully channelled to 24 beneficiary organisations that have been adopted by NUSSU. These organisations cater to the elderly, disabled, children or families (see sidebar for a full list of beneficiaries).

Each of the beneficiaries on the list represent a section of society that is often forgotten by the public. As we become preoccupied by work, problems, and the general bustle of life, we tend to forget people who need our help: the old uncle without relatives and a place to stay, the family unable to pay their rent and the child suffering from congenital heart disease. Flag Day reminds us that there is a need to actively reach out to these groups of people in our midst, and to help them in whatever ways possible. As medical students, Flag Day also takes on a greater significance, as it also reminds us that in addition to striving for academic excellence, we should aim to become doctors of compassion with a heart for the community.

In addition to Flag Day, there is also Rag Day. Students from each faculty spend months constructing floats and rehearsing performances to put up a dazzling show on Rag Day. It highlights the creativity and diversity of the different faculties in NUS, reflecting the fine balance that the students strike between work and play, and is also a gesture of appreciation to the donors who have contributed on Flag Day. In conjunction with our nation's 46th birthday, Rag Day will be held at the Promontory @ Marina Bay on 9 August this year.

The NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSoM) managed to raise a total of \$38,800 for Flag Day 2010, a feat that could definitely not have been achieved without the help and support of the medical community at large. This year, we have increased our target and aim to raise \$60,000.

If you would like to be a part of YLLSoM's Flag Day 2011 efforts by making a kind donation, please do not hesitate to contact our Flag Day head, Nathanael, at 92718848, or at [med.flag2011@gmail.com](mailto:med.flag2011@gmail.com). All donations received will be fully channelled to the beneficiaries of NUSSU Rag and Flag Day. **SMA**

## Beneficiaries of Rag and Flag 2011

No.	Name of Charity	Cause
1	NTUC Eldercare Co-operative Ltd	Elderly
2	RSVP Singapore	Elderly
3	Moral Seniors Activity Centre (Toa Payoh)	Elderly
4	St. Andrew's Mission Hospital	Elderly
5	Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled	Disabled
6	Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped	Disabled
7	Autism Association (Singapore)	Disabled
8	Metta Welfare Association	Disabled
9	Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore	Disabled
10	Association for Persons with Special Needs	Disabled
11	Society for the Physically Disabled	Disabled
12	Singapore Disability Sports Council	Disabled
13	Teen Challenge (Singapore)	Children/Youth
14	Child At Street 11 Childcare Centre	Children/Youth
15	Singapore Children's Society	Children/Youth
16	Woodlands Social Centre	Children/Youth
17	Singapore Heart Foundation	Family
18	Singapore After-Care Association	Family
19	Eagles Mediation & Counselling Centre (Singapore)	Family
20	Filos Community Services	Family
21	Life Community Services Society	Family
22	Beyond Social Services	Family
23	Viriya Community Services	Family
24	Shan You Counselling Centre	Family